

of tyranny have expiated their crimes. The victims of tyranny have been compensated for their sufferings. It would therefore be most unwise to persevere further in that course which was justifiable and necessary when we first met, after a long interval, and found the whole administration one mass of abuses. It is time to take heed that we do not so pursue our victory over despotism as to run into anarchy. It was not in our power to overturn the bad institutions which lately afflicted our country, without shocks which have loosened the foundations of government. Now that those institutions have fallen we must hasten to prop the edifice which it was lately our duty to batter. Henceforth it will be our wisdom to look with jealousy on schemes of innovation and to guard from encroachment all the prerogatives with which the law has, for the public good, armed the sovereign.¹

There is a similar passage in chapter xiv, where Macaulay states the argument of the clergy for and against taking the oath of allegiance to William III,² and another at the beginning of chapter xxiii, where he sums up the controversy for and against a standing army.³

In these last examples, the views of the two parties on the point at issue are admirably condensed and stated, far better than could have been done by the ordinary method of quoting salient passages from speeches and pamphlets, and they are also far more briefly and effectively put. This result is due not only to Macaulay's

rhetoꝛical gifts,
but also to the magnificent memory which
enabled him to
recollect the contents of all the pamphlets he
had read, so
that he had a sort of bird's-eye view of the
whole controversy. His use of this device must be
pronounced very
successful: it answers the end of adding
variety to his
story, and it answers the end of reproducing
the arguments

¹1, 92.

²IV, 1707-12.

³VI, 2736-42.